



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

ZAF01 – European Pilchard in FAO Area

34 - Zones A & B

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	European Pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 34, Eastern Central Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Mauritania, Morocco
	Stock:	Northwest Africa, Zones A & B (Central)
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	ZAF01	
Assessor	Vineetha Aravind	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Mauritania, Morocco	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): St Helena Bay (Lucky Star Ltd), West Point Processors, Amawandle Pelagic (Pty) Ltd, St Helena Bay (Pioneer Fishing Pty Ltd)			
Country: South Africa			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vineetha Aravind	Sam Peacock	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	June 2024 – June 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	European Pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)
Stock	Northwest Africa, Zones A & B (Central)
Fishery Location	FAO 34, Eastern Central Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), Morocco, Mauritania
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine and pelagic trawler
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessment outcome
Recommendation	PASS

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>To be approved as Marin Trust raw material, the species should not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red list and should not appear in CITES appendices. European pilchard does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Sardine in Zones A & B is usually managed relative to reference points, and the most recent stock assessment was in 2023, using data up to 2022. Fishery removals are considered and the stock PASSES Clause C1.1.</p> <p>Latest stock assessment published in 2023 shows that the stock is not fully exploited in 2022, even though a significant increase (78%) in catch was recorded in the year. The biomass was reported to be stable. Therefore, the stock PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Sardine from Zones A & B should be approved for use as an MT raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees that this species is eligible for assessment under the MarinTrust byproduct assessment methodology, and that the stock falls into Category C. The most recent stock assessment was adequate to meet the requirements of C1.1, and biomass is currently estimated to be above the target reference point level, meeting the requirements of C1.2. Overall, the peer reviewer agrees that this stock should be approved as a source of byproduct raw material for MarinTrust certified facilities.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as a MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
European Pilchard	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Northwest Africa, Zones A & B (Central)	No ³	C	Least Concern ⁴	No ⁴

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

³ See assessment determination

⁴ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198580/15542481>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		NA
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements	
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible. PASS
	C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible. PASS

Clause outcome: PASS

C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), has summarised the preliminary results by its Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) in the twenty-second meeting of the FAO Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa during 2023. Fishery removals are recorded and C1.1 is met.

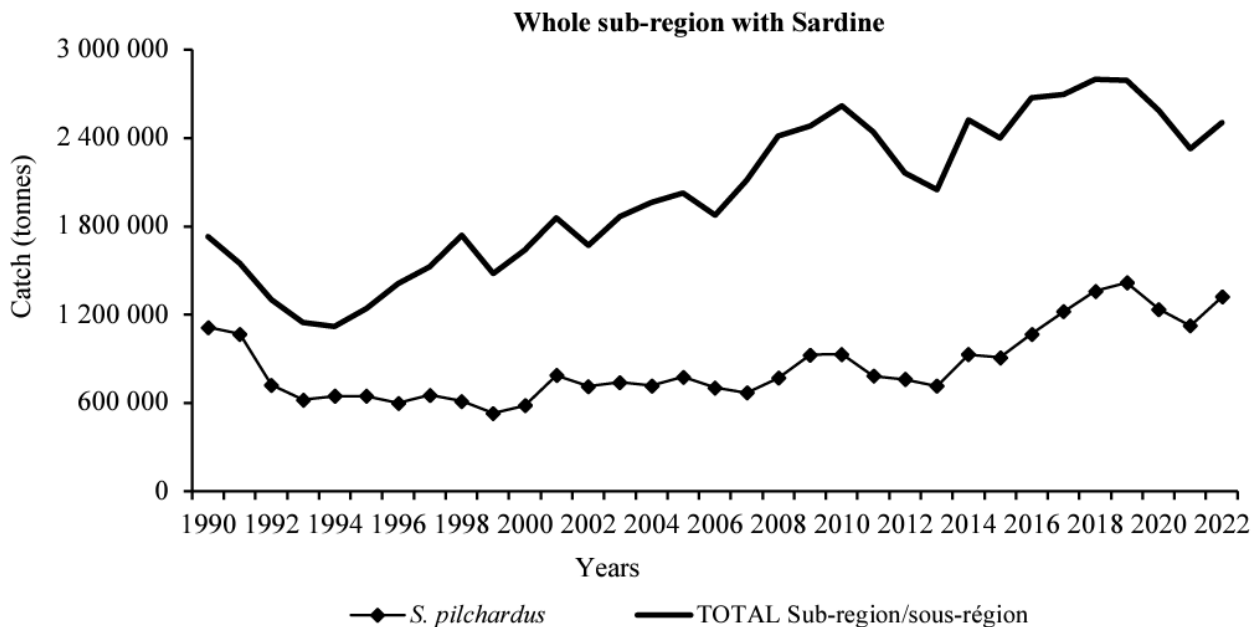


Figure 1: Total small pelagic species and sardine catches in the subregion by species and year (Source: CECAF summary report, 2023)

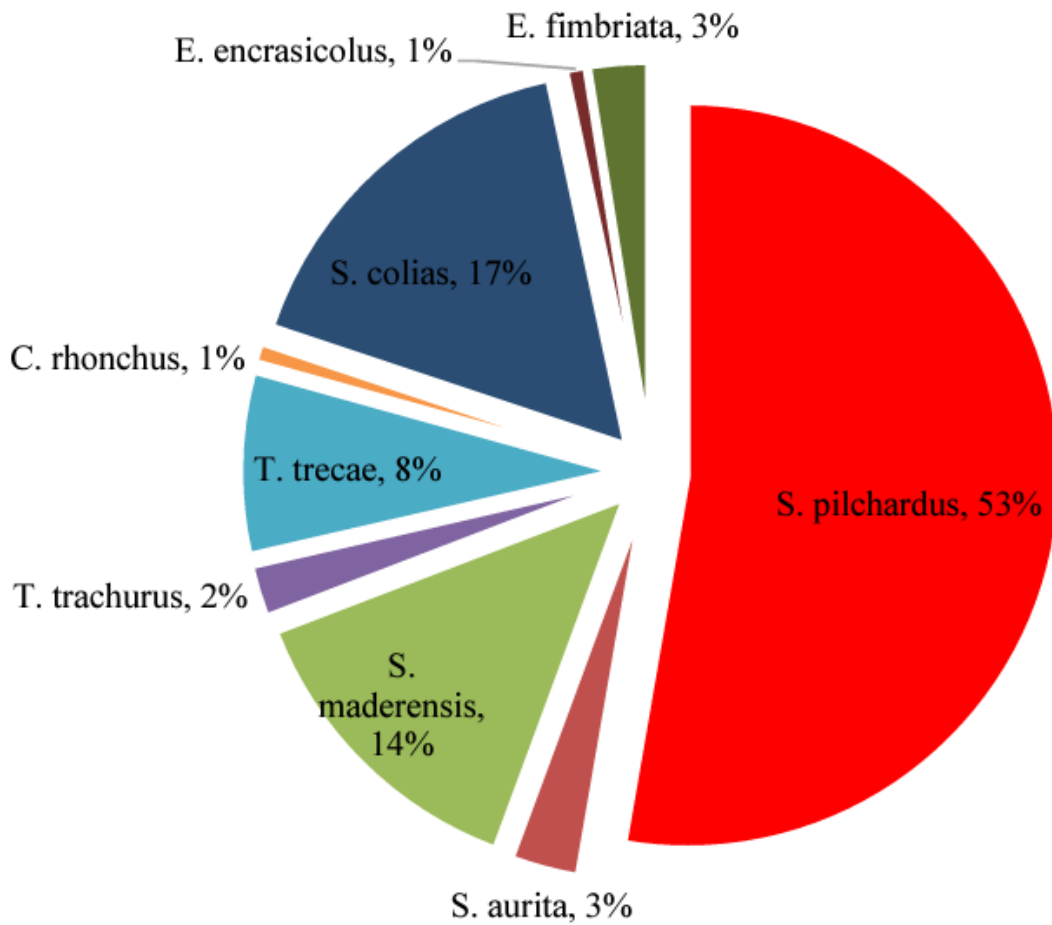


Figure 2: Percentage of each species in catches in Northwest Africa region in 2022. (Source: CECAF summary report, 2023)

Total *S. pilchardus* catch of 2022 is recorded as 1320108 tonnes.

C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

According to the results of the stock assessment by CECAF, the stock in Zone A+B is considered not fully exploited. Sardine catches in the sub-region in 2022 increased by 17 percent compared to 2021, increasing from around 1.1 million tonnes in 2021 to more than 1.3 million tonnes in 2022. Catches in Zone North and Zone A+B increased: they went from 21 023 tonnes in 2021 to 23 230 tonnes in 2022 (an increase of around 10 percent) in Zone North. For Zone A+B, sardine catches increased from 344 261 tonnes in 2021 to 611 463 tonnes in 2022 (an increase of 78 percent).

Bcur/B0.1 is 135% and Fcur/F0.1 is 75%.

However, a general downward trend in the average size of sardines caught in the central zone has been recorded in recent years and calls for vigilance regarding the exploitation of this stock whose biomass and recruitment levels fluctuate. Projections show that the stock could sustain a slight increase in catches. However, the variability of the resource vis-à-vis hydroclimatic changes requires the adoption of a precautionary approach. The working group maintains the recommendation not to exceed a level of 550 000 tonnes, as in previous years.

The stock is assessed to be in good condition and therefore, C1,2 is met.

References

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC. SUMMARY REPORT. FAO WORKING GROUP ON THE ASSESSMENT OF SMALL PELAGIC FISH OFF NORTHWEST AFRICA 2023.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/402e8343-87d0-471a-b288-4397f5e7af32/content>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name	European Pilchard	
	Productivity Attribute	Value	Score
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
	Average Productivity Score		
	Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score
	Availability (area overlap)	< 10% overlap	
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	Targeted	
	Selectivity of gear type	Juveniles rarely caught	
	Post-capture mortality	Retained species	
	Average Susceptibility Score		
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		
	Compliance rating		
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)		
	<i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
References			
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)	High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap	10-30% overlap	>30% overlap
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).	Medium overlap with fishing gear.	High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.	Retained species or majority dead when released.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name	NA	
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
Outcome:			
Evidence			
D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.			
D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
References			
Links			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	